



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MINUTES – APRIL 8, 2010
Human Resources Training Room
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa CA 95403

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chris Allen, Christina Brenner (Vice-Chair), Mary Basham, Jan Kiely (Chair), Donna Roper (Officer at Large), Priscilla Vivio

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jan DeWald, Karen Famini (both notified)

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Autumn Cullen, Katherine Salinger

STAFF PRESENT: Nadine Jaillet

GUESTS PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS:

Kiely called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

Vivio motioned to approve the April 8, 2010 Agenda, and the March 11, 2010 Draft Commission Minutes. Allen seconded.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND OPENINGS:

Kiely announced a new Commissioner representing the 2nd District has been appointed and will be officially sworn in at the May Commission meeting.

V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:

Discussed under Old Business, Possible Move to District Attorney's Office.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Work Plan Update:

No updates this month.



Possible Move to District Attorney's Office:

Kiely has no additional information. Basham spoke with Supervisor Zane, and shared that there is internal discussion for the CSW to report directly to the Board of Supervisors or the County Administrator's Office. Basham believes Zane would like the CSW to move from Human Resources to another county department, and asked if Commissioners should contact their Supervisors about this issue. Basham, Kiely and Vivio agreed to meet with Supervisors Zane and Brown. Basham will schedule a meeting. Roper reported Supervisor Carrillo does not have a preference on which county department the CSW operates under.

Kiely acknowledged the Human Resources department has tried to shield the Commission and its budget, but realizes pressure for the county to reduce costs could affect both. Kiely feels it is important to stay visible to the Board, not allowing the importance of the Commission and its work to become lost. Commissioners discussed the need to consistently update their Supervisors on Commission work, such as the two recent Women's History Month events, in effort to stay visible. Basham suggested the Junior Commissioners can also regularly email their Supervisors with updates, possibly after each Junior Commission meeting. Roper added that Supervisor Carrillo wishes to meet with the 5th District Junior Commissioners.

Women's History Month Events Update:

Basham reported that Supervisor Zane gave an invigorating presentation with heart. Basham feels scheduling the event on Palm Sunday and during Spring Break for many may have impacted the attendance. Vivio agreed, suggesting that it might be helpful to discuss potential dates with the Commission to get a broader perspective, before selecting.

Kiely reported that she and her husband were very impressed with the enjoyable presentation that Santa Rosa Junior College History Professor Spires gave, especially with the PowerPoint and music from the time. About fifteen attended. Basham was very pleased, as well as was Professor Spires.

Each speaker was presented with an orchid plant and bottle of wine as a thank you.

Representation Coordinator Event Plans and Budget:

Roper confirmed the No Name women's group event is May 14, 5:30 PM, at the Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa. The Commission is not responsible for refreshments. Target speakers are women judges, and women currently running for office. Junior Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

Vivio met with Wanda Tapia of Coalition for Latino Civic Engagement, an organization working to help Latinas get elected or appointed. Tapia is interested in collaborating with the Commission on future events. Vivio will forward information to Jaillet, who will forward to Commissioners.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Sonoma County Women's Health Centers:

Kiely was forwarded an email from a K. Adams about violence, including rock throwing, at local women's health centers. Kiely invited Adams to attend the April Commission meeting to discuss the issue, but did not receive a response. Apparently the behavior is at a low enough level that it has not come to media attention. When asked the reason for the violence Kiely offered it is due to health centers providing birth control, counseling for abortions, and abortions. Kiely will place this subject on the May Commission Agenda should there be further information available.

Proposed State Budget Cuts to Family Violence Protection System:

Basham suggested Commissioners write to legislators asking them not to support any type of budget cuts to shelters. Basham motioned for the Commission to write a letter asking legislators not to cut funding to shelters. Roper seconded. All were in favor. Basham will contact the YWCA to inquire if they have a letter template the Commission can use.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Junior Commission (Famini):

Cullen reported the last Junior Commission meeting was unofficial due to five Junior Commissioners being away on Spring Break. The group worked on their focus group reports and practiced giving mini presentations. Jeanne Robinson told of her trip to Washington DC to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Women's History Month. Basham suggested inviting those who attended the event in Washington DC to the May Commission meeting to give a report.

On behalf of Famini, Salinger announced that the last Junior Commission meeting will be May 4, 2010, in the Human Resources Training Center, and invited all Commissioners to attend. Salinger asked for volunteers to bring a dessert, appetizer, or flowers to the final meeting and reception. Basham offered to bring food, table cloths, and flowers. Vivio also offered to bring something.

Women's History Month (Basham):

To celebrate Women's History Month in 2011, Basham suggested holding a reception honoring one or more women in the community, charging an admission fee, and giving the proceeds to the Commission's scholarship fund. Basham would like to pay the advance deposits for venue and caterer now. Kiely will include this item on the May agenda. Basham will research venues with a kitchen and tables and chairs to accommodate 85-100 people. Brenner suggested the Mary Furth Center. Several suggested the Finley Center due to its central location, kitchen, and easy parking. Basham will also research caterers. Brenner suggested Worth Our Weight or the Santa Rosa Junior College Culinary School. Roper offered to assist Basham with planning for the 2011 celebration. Kiely expressed appreciation for Basham's enthusiasm in planning for next year.

Community Issues Liaison & Coordinators:

◇ **Domestic Violence Liaison (DeWald):**

No report.

◇ **Human Trafficking Liaison (Brenner):**

Brenner gave a brief summary on the human trafficking event produced by two Ursuline seniors. The event was held at the Wells Fargo Center Merlot theater and included a DVD viewing and panel discussion. Panelists were Joan Risse, Kathy Hargitt, and a Santa Rosa Lt. Deputy. Allen attended, and expressed that the program was excellent, and hoped the students would offer more viewings. Brenner explained the DVD shown had been purchased for a one time use.

Vivio asked if the CSW could revisit hosting a similar event each year. Brenner said she will contact Joan Risse.

◇ **Legislation Coordinator (Vivio):**

No report.

◇ **Representation Coordinator (Roper):**

Discussed earlier under Old Business.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Attendance Report:

The attendance report was distributed.

Budget Report:

The budget report was distributed.

Correspondence:

The mailbag was electronically distributed April 7, 2010.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

- Women's health center update
- Vote to pay deposits reserving venue and caterer for the 2011 Women's History Month event
- Possible Commission move to another County department
- Guest speakers who attended the 30th anniversary of Women's History Month in Washington DC
- Report on Commission scholarship donations
- Sharing email contacts to update the CSW mailing list

XI. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Allen ordered a DVD of Gail Collins' book on women's history and will share it with those interested.
- Roper announced that April is prevent child abuse month.

- Roper will moderate a League of Women Voters meeting of Santa Rosa City Council Member candidates.
- Roper announced funding for the ACCW is to be eliminated from the state budget on April 20, 2010, and urged Commissioners to contact legislators in support of ACCW.

XII. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Kiely adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.